

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 - 20 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 18 and 20 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 15 - 20 have been allowed. Thus claims 1 and 3 - 20 remain in this application. Also, a replacement Figure 6 is submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

The Drawings

In connection with a review of the present application in response to the April 7th Office Action, applicants discovered that reference numeral 52 was used twice in Figure 6. Specifically, reference numeral 52 was erroneously employed to designate the schematically illustrated transmission. This reference numeral should be 50 as set forth in paragraphs 34 and 35 on page 15 of the specification. Accordingly, applicants submit a replacement Figure 6 including reference numeral 50 properly designating the transmission schematically illustrated in this Figure. Attorney for applicants apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Priority

The specification has been amended to include a statement of related applications including a specific reference to the prior application from which the present application claims priority.

In addition, the specification has been amended at paragraphs 6 and 30 to correct certain minor typographical errors that were discovered upon reviewing the specification in response to the latest Office Action. Attorney for applicants apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 because of a lack of sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said flat disc” in line 2 of this claim. Claim 8 is dependent upon independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the express limitation directed toward the “flat disc.” Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that proper antecedent basis for this term as it is used in claim 8 has been provided through claim 1.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Showalter ‘592 patent. A claim is said to be anticipated where each any every element of the claim can be found in a single prior reference. Accordingly, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2 - 7, 9 - 11, and 13 - 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With the Examiner’s suggestion in mind, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Claim 2 has been cancelled. In addition, the dependency of claims 3 and 5 have been changed to claim 1.

In view of these amendments, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 recites structure that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and is therefore patentably distinguishable from the subject matter of the references of record in this case. Claims 3 - 14 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claim 1 and add further perfecting limitations. As such, the prior art references in combination or each reference standing alone, do not suggest the subject invention as

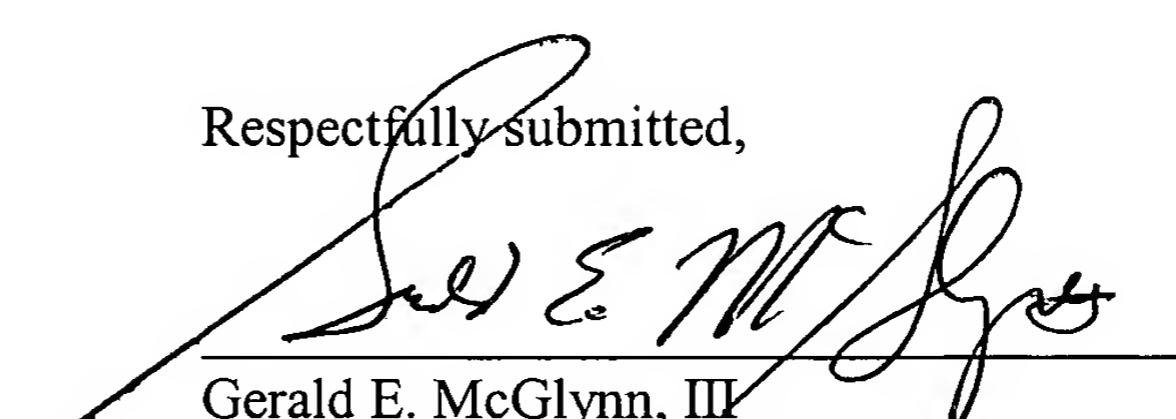
defined in these claims. However, even if they did, they could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosures of the prior art in view of applicants' invention. In this case, a combination of the prior art to derive applicants' invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

As noted above, claims 15 - 20 have been allowed. However, upon review of the application, typographical errors in connection with the spelling of "braking" on the last line of claim 18 and with the dependency of claim 20 were noted. Accordingly, claim 18 has been amended to provide the correct spelling for braking and claim 20 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 19. Attorney for applicants apologizes for these errors.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are, therefore, allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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